

Application No.: 09/976,796
Examiner: Matthew Anderson
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REMARKS

Claims 1-2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hitoshi et al. (JP-61044792). Hitoshi teaches use of a crucible and a susceptor, wherein both the crucible and the susceptor have holes align with each other and are placed above the melt to facilitate the escape of the SiO gas produced by the high temperature reaction of the molten silicon with the crucible through the holes to prevent SiO from solidifying and falling into the melt, thereby eliminating one source of dislocations.

Claim 1 has thus been amended such that the crucible has a solid wall. A crucible having a solid wall, i.e. a wall without vent holes cut into the side as taught by Hitoshi, combined with a susceptor having one or more vent holes is not taught or suggested by Hitoshi alone, or in combination with Fukada or Wegmeth.

Claims 2-5 all depend from Claim 1. Applicant respectfully submits that the amendment to Claim 1 now places it in condition for allowance, as well as Claims 2-5 depending from Claim 1. It is respectfully requested that Notice of Allowance be issued in due course. The Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicant's undersigned agent by telephone at (360) 883-7575 to address any remaining issues in order to expedite examination.

Respectfully submitted,



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